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From the Office of the Director of Health

HIV Testing Urged This World AIDS Day

In observance of World AIDS Day on Saturday, December 1st, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department urges area residents to get tested for HIV.

"HIV threatens men, women and children alike. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that one million Americans have HIV and that one in four of them don't even know it," says administrator of community health and epidemiology Kendra Williams. "People who know they are HIV infected can benefit from life-saving treatments. They can also take steps to protect their partners and protect our community."

The CDC recommends that adults and adolescents between the ages of 13– 64 years be routinely screened for HIV infection in all healthcare settings. They also urge pregnant women to be screened for HIV infection as part of routine prenatal care.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department offers free, confidential and anonymous HIV testing to anyone. Clients are seen at walk-in clinics located at 227 E Chestnut Expressway, on a first come, first served basis until the clinic is full. Clinics are held Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 10:00 am and Wednesday through Friday from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Appointments may also be requested on Tuesday afternoons by calling (417) 864-1684.

More information is available on the health department's Web site at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org> or by calling their automated information line at 417-864-1750.

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